

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 were pending in the application. By way of the present amendment, claims 9, 19, 28 and 29 are being canceled and new claim 30 is being added. Claims 9, 19, 21, 25, 28 and 29 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 1-8, 10-18, 20, 22-24, 26 and 27 stand rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by Tamarkin (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,467).

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended by the Examiner during the interview on October 2, 2003.

The typographical error in claim 22 has been corrected by way of the present amendment.

Claim 1 has been combined with the allowable subject matter of claim 9 and therefore claims 1-8 and 10-14 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 has been combined with the allowable subject matter of claim 19 and therefore claims 15-18 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 20 has been combined with the allowable subject matter of claim 28 and therefore claims 20, and 22-23 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 21, indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been put in independent form and therefore is in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 has been combined with the allowable subject matter of claim 29 and therefore claims 24, and 26-27 are in condition for allowance.

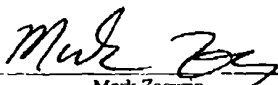
Claim 25, indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been put in independent form and therefore is in condition for allowance.

New claim 30 recites the subject matter of claim 1 combined with the subject matter indicated as allowable in claims 24 and 25 as discussed during the Interview with the Examiner.

In view of the above amendments, all claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any

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issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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